

# EPA Region III

Office of Public Affairs

## EARLY BIRD HEADLINES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

### \*\*\* MORNING HOT LIST \*\*\*

#### Report faults Detrick health study

**FREDERICK NEWS POST** Officials call for cleanup of former Area B dumping ground. There's no way to tell if groundwater contamination harmed people living in homes around Fort Detrick's Area B, and the seepage should have been considered "an indeterminate public-health hazard," the National Research Council said Monday. But, the NRC, in a 25-page report, said additional studies of groundwater at the 399-acre site located off Rosemont Avenue would be unlikely to establish a link between local residents' complaints of a cancer cluster and groundwater contamination found in the area because historical data doesn't exist. Area B, a former dumping ground for Detrick, has long been a site of contention and speculation among local residents. The Army found groundwater contaminated with PCE and TCE-chemicals often found in industrial materials such as dry cleaning fluids and degreasers seeping under the site in 1992. The contamination spread to several residential wells, forcing Detrick to connect those residents to other water supply lines or provide them with bottled water. Some area residents have blamed PCE and TCE -- known carcinogens -- for their cancers. The NRC's report reviewed two studies. One study was done in 2009 by the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and concluded that possible exposures were "unlikely" to have a detrimental health effect. The other study was completed by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Frederick County Health Department. That report determined that there were no unusual patterns in cancer incidences around the site from 1992 until 2008. "The data was so skimpy," said John C. Bailar III, chairman of the NRC committee that produced the report, regarding the agency for toxic substances. "The measurements they had were from 1992, and there's no telling what was in that water before that. Maybe there was nothing, maybe there was a whole lot ... Our conclusion was there wasn't any way to tell."

#### EPA water tests in *Dimock*, Pa., due this week

**ASSOCIATED PRESS** DIMOCK, Pa. -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's testing of scores of water wells will give residents of a small northeastern Pennsylvania village a snapshot of the aquifer they rely on for drinking, cooking and bathing. The first EPA test results, expected this week, are certain to provide fodder for both sides of a raging 3-year-old debate over unconventional natural gas drilling and its impacts on Dimock, a rural crossroads featured in the Emmy Award-winning documentary "Gasland." A handful of residents are suing Cabot Oil & Gas Corp., saying the Houston-based driller contaminated their wells with potentially explosive methane gas and with drilling chemicals. Many other residents of Dimock assert the water is clean, and that the plaintiffs are exaggerating problems with their wells to help their lawsuit. In a letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, a pro-drilling group called Enough is Enough contends the agency's "rogue" Philadelphia field office has allowed itself to be a pawn of trial lawyers seeking a big payout from Cabot. More than 300 people signed it.

"Dimock Proud" signs dot lawns throughout the village in Susquehanna County, one of the most intensively drilled regions of the Marcellus Shale gas field.

## **Flower Show Winners**

**PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER** (Sunday) The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Flower Show Award:

Display Garden - Floral: Schaffer Designs.

Display Garden - Landscape: EP Henry Corp.

Invitational Floral: Petals Lane.

Invitational Landscape: Men's Garden Club of Philadelphia.

Academic Education: Temple University, Ambler School of Environmental Design.

*Nonacademic Education: U.S. EPA Region III.*

Plant Societies: Delaware Valley Fern and Wildflower Society.

## **Editorial: Flood of tears: The city must be proactive on stormwater**

**PITTSBURGH POST GAZETTE** No one thinks about sewers until they back up. When clogged catch basins lead to street cave-ins and flooding that damages neighborhoods, that's when the finger-pointing starts. By then it's too late and the cost of correcting the problem soars. Pittsburgh Councilman Bill Peduto believes that a proactive approach to catch basins and other infrastructure problems is the key to avoiding problems with stormwater run-off and floods in the spring, especially in his East End district. In addition to a dozen catch basin problems that the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority should be aware of, Mr. Peduto catalogued 20 more locations in East Liberty, Shadyside, Squirrel Hill and Point Breeze where he believes sewer lines deserve close attention. It's an important report on a problem that cries out for long-term solutions. The PWSA agreed to check the locations Mr. Peduto identified and to "make corrections as needed." Let's hope the PWSA follows through with inspection and any necessary repairs. Last August, a flash flood on Washington Boulevard killed four people. With the memory of that still fresh, Mr. Peduto is right to be concerned that future heavy rains could cause a similar tragedy in the city. To allay the councilman's fears, the authority should reveal its plans for maintaining the safety and integrity of catch basins throughout the city before the spring rains begin. It should also share its capital plan for long-term upgrades of infrastructure. Pittsburgh should not be the scene of another street flood disaster.

## **Letter: Proactive wastewater policy has helped the Bay**

**RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH** The editorial "The Chesapeake: Bay Seasoning" correctly points out that the Bay's populations of oysters and crabs are on the rise. One of the reasons for this success is the progress that has been made in the wastewater-treatment sector. The members of Virginia Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies Inc. (VAMWA) are proud to be leaders in this effort. The association's membership, which consists of 61 local wastewater treatment agencies, years ago had the foresight to begin implementing advanced wastewater treatment for the Bay and will continue to pursue these technology upgrades into the future. The protection of our waterways comes with a great price tag. While much of Virginia's progress to date has been funded by increases in water and sewer rates, funding provided through the commonwealth's Water Quality Improvement Fund (\$650 million to date) is a key ingredient. Many of Virginia's wastewater treatment plants are among the most advanced in the nation and have been recognized for their outstanding performance. The Virginia wastewater sector has realized a 20 percent reduction in nitrogen and a 47 percent reduction in phosphorus discharges during the last decade. We expect data for 2011 to show even more progress. The Bay is "seasoning," but it hasn't happened overnight. As noted by your editorial, all of the progress made by Virginia's wastewater treatment agencies testifies to the virtues of persistent, collaborative action. Let's continue to work together as to make the fisheries trend a permanent one.

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# PENNSYLVANIA

## ***PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER***

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Academic Education: Temple University, Ambler School of Environmental Design.

***Nonacademic Education: U.S. EPA Region III.***

Plant Societies: Delaware Valley Fern and Wildflower Society.

Financial woes shake the DRBC The financial noose is tightening for the Delaware River Basin Commission, the arbiter of whether natural gas drilling will occur in the watershed. Pennsylvania, which is upset that the commission has yet to authorize drilling, has withheld two quarterly payments to it. A state budget document shows Pennsylvania froze its allocation in January, reducing its payments to the DRBC by 40.7 percent this fiscal year. Meanwhile, New York has steadily shrunk its payments over the last few years, and in its proposed 2013 budget, it will pay about 40 percent of its agreed-upon fair share of the commission's revenue. This is causing worry that the commission - a national model formed by a federal compact 50 years ago - could fall apart. If the funding woes continue, "this revered agency would have to start cutting staff," said Jeffrey Featherstone, a Temple University professor and former deputy executive director at the commission. "It would be on a death cycle." Two other commission member states, New Jersey and Delaware, have paid or are expected to. Although New Jersey had threatened to withhold funding last year if drilling regulations weren't passed, it didn't. But because of political wrangling at the national level, the federal government - the commission's fifth member - has failed to pay its portion every year but one since 1998. Its cumulative shortfall is now more than \$9 million. Maya van Rossum, the Delaware riverkeeper, said it seems clear Pennsylvania's failure to pay "is arm-twisting because of the gas drilling regulations." She called it a "myopic" strategy given the commission's proven value to the river basin and the states in it by regulating water withdrawals, maintaining water quality, and managing droughts and flood mitigation.

A former DEP director takes over at PennFuture George Jugovic Jr., the former southwest regional director of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, has taken over as president and CEO of the environmental watchdog group PennFuture, the organization announced Monday. He replaces Jan Jarrett, who resigned after 13 years as PennFuture's head. After leaving the DEP, Jugovic was a senior attorney and law-staff chair at PennFuture, working as a citizen advocate on energy and environmental-enforcement matters. He graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a bachelor of science degree in environmental resource management and received a law degree from Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland, Ore. He lives in Sarver, Butler County.

Being a 'green' traveler, easier said than done (Sunday) Maybe for one reason or another you've thought about staying in "eco-friendly" hotels when you travel, but you're not eager to join the League of Environmental Hairsplitters to figure out a conscientious choice. You're not unusual. The most recent industry survey of U.S. travelers - not at all intended to promote the idea - concluded just the same that "green is mainstream." More than four in 10 considered environmental impact to be important when planning travel. To find out about environmental impact, there are a few useful shortcuts to consider. But first some context, in the person of Rachel Muir.

## ***PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE***

Editorial: Flood of tears: The city must be proactive on stormwater No one thinks about sewers until they back up. When clogged catch basins lead to street cave-ins and flooding that damages neighborhoods, that's when the finger-pointing starts. By then it's too late and the cost of correcting the problem soars. Pittsburgh Councilman Bill Peduto believes that a proactive approach to catch basins and other infrastructure problems is the key to avoiding problems

with stormwater run-off and floods in the spring, especially in his East End district. In addition to a dozen catch basin problems that the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority should be aware of, Mr. Peduto catalogued 20 more locations in East Liberty, Shadyside, Squirrel Hill and Point Breeze where he believes sewer lines deserve close attention. It's an important report on a problem that cries out for long-term solutions. The PWSA agreed to check the locations Mr. Peduto identified and to "make corrections as needed." Let's hope the PWSA follows through with inspection and any necessary repairs. Last August, a flash flood on Washington Boulevard killed four people. With the memory of that still fresh, Mr. Peduto is right to be concerned that future heavy rains could cause a similar tragedy in the city. To allay the councilman's fears, the authority should reveal its plans for maintaining the safety and integrity of catch basins throughout the city before the spring rains begin. It should also share its capital plan for long-term upgrades of infrastructure. Pittsburgh should not be the scene of another street flood disaster.

### ***PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE REVIEW***

Environmental group's chief steps down The leader of one of the state's top environmental groups resigned on Monday amid scrutiny over the handling of a state grant. Jan Jarrett had been the president and chief executive officer of the Harrisburg-based Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future. She is being replaced by PennFuture senior attorney George Jugovic Jr., the former southwest regional director for the state Department of Environmental Protection. Jarrett had come under scrutiny once PennFuture returned a state grant because of allegations the money had not been spent as intended. The group's spokeswoman, Jeanne Clark, denied that conflict was the impetus for Jarrett's resignation. The group's board had been discussing a change "for a while," she said. "It's really more about a change of focus than anything else," Clark added. "It's really more about re-emphasizing our legal work. We felt it makes sense to have a lawyer at the head of our organization." Jarrett confirmed her departure but declined further comment. Local officials working with PennFuture complimented the organization on its openness and accountability. It resolved the state grant problem by repaying the money, and its promises to be mindful about its grant practices and oversight safeguards were reassuring for future projects, said Patricia M. Schaefer, chair of the Congress of Neighboring Communities, a local government cooperation group that is partnering with PennFuture on a federal grant. "It's been great," the congress' associate director, Kathy Risko, said about working with the group. "They've been wonderful. We've only just started this project ... but they've always been, at least in my experience, they've been transparent and it's like working with any other partner."

### ***JOHNSTOWN TRIBUNE DEMOCRAT***

Toomey tours local plant JOHNSTOWN — Environmental Tank Inc. has gone from zero to 85 in eight months. Eighty-five jobs, that is. "In July, you could hear the crickets chirping in here," CEO Bill Polacek said Monday after showing U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey the Cramer Pike plant. Polacek said the floor will add another 70 manufacturing jobs inside a year. Toomey said he toured the site "to see firsthand the nature of this business, a young, innovative company that's growing and has the opportunity to expand." The company welds tanks to contain frack water used in the Marcellus Shale drilling process. "What they're asking for is the opportunity to grow. As long as the federal government is not in the way, they'll be just fine," Toomey said. Specifically, the senator said, he's concerned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency doesn't overstep its bounds. He said the Pennsylvania gas industry is not hampered by what he sees as overly stringent rules — such as those imposed by New York State. Polacek — who also runs sister company JWF Industries — said he'd like to see the senator do what he can to support job retraining for just the sort of metalworking jobs he has available

## ***SCRANTON TIMES-TRIBUNE***

DEP allows Keystone to move forward with Marcellus Shale waste plan The state Department of Environmental Protection has given the go-ahead for Keystone Sanitary Landfill to process Marcellus Shale rock waste, extracted from natural gas wells, at its facility in Dunmore and Throop, an agency spokeswoman said Monday. DEP approved the landfill's permit request, which will also allow disposal of up to 1,000 tons daily of the drill cuttings and processing of the material on-site at a specialized mill, DEP spokeswoman Colleen Connolly said. In the past, Keystone had accepted about 600 tons of the cuttings daily and depended on drillers to get the waste ready for disposal on their own. Throop officials have raised concerns over the shale waste, including whether it emits a level of radiation that would threaten public health. Marcellus Shale cuttings can contain elevated levels of naturally occurring metals and radioactive material, including radium-226. In December, Keystone proposed importing the rock waste in "unprocessed or unsolidified form" and processing it at the custom-designed mill at the landfill with a lime-based material, where it would be solidified for disposal or used as a replacement for soil for cover at the landfill. Keystone can now move forward with the plan under the permit modification approved by DEP on Friday, Ms. Connolly and Throop Borough Council President Thomas Lukasewicz said.

## ***ASSOCIATED PRESS (Pa.)***

EPA water tests in Dimock, Pa., due this week DIMOCK, Pa. -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's testing of scores of water wells will give residents of a small northeastern Pennsylvania village a snapshot of the aquifer they rely on for drinking, cooking and bathing. The first EPA test results, expected this week, are certain to provide fodder for both sides of a raging 3-year-old debate over unconventional natural gas drilling and its impacts on Dimock, a rural crossroads featured in the Emmy Award-winning documentary "Gasland." A handful of residents are suing Cabot Oil & Gas Corp., saying the Houston-based driller contaminated their wells with potentially explosive methane gas and with drilling chemicals. Many other residents of Dimock assert the water is clean, and that the plaintiffs are exaggerating problems with their wells to help their lawsuit. In a letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, a pro-drilling group called Enough is Enough contends the agency's "rogue" Philadelphia field office has allowed itself to be a pawn of trial lawyers seeking a big payout from Cabot. More than 300 people signed it. "Dimock Proud" signs dot lawns throughout the village in Susquehanna County, one of the most intensively drilled regions of the Marcellus Shale gas field.

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# **WASHINGTON, D.C.**

## ***WASHINGTON TIMES***

Fracking firms eye pipeline to DC market In another sign of the fracking boom that's helped revitalize Pennsylvania's economy, three major energy firms say they want to build a \$1 billion natural-gas pipeline from the Keystone State as far south as the Washington, D.C., market. The project, dubbed the Commonwealth Pipeline, would transport gas from the state's Marcellus Shale region to major markets along the East Coast, including Philadelphia and Baltimore. An exact route hasn't yet been determined, but the 200-mile line, if built, would begin in rural Lycoming County in north-central Pennsylvania and continue south near Harrisburg. At maximum capacity, it would transport about 7.8 million cubic feet of natural gas each day - nearly four times what the entire country currently uses per month. The companies involved - Pennsylvania's UGI Energy Services and Capitol Energy Ventures Corp. and Kansas City, Mo.-based Inergy Midstream L.P. - hope to complete the project by 2015. Inergy would build and operate the pipeline, while UGI and Capitol would own equal equity interests in it, the companies said in a joint statement. "Gas production in the region has been limited by ... existing interstate pipelines, most of which currently serve markets outside Pennsylvania," said Bradley C. Hall, UGI president. "Our goal in participating in this project is to bring gas produced in Pennsylvania directly to the major markets in central

and eastern Pennsylvania."Since the Marcellus drilling boom began about five years ago, most of the fuel produced in gas-rich areas such as northern and western Pennsylvania has been shipped west to Ohio, Kentucky and other states.

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## DELAWARE

### **DELAWARE CAPE GAZETTE**

Outfall work ongoing in Rehoboth Rehoboth Beach — The dredges may be gone, but work on Rehoboth Beach by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the state Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control goes on, as bulldozers and excavators work on the outfall pipes that carry stormwater into the ocean. Stephen Rochette, spokesman for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said, an excavator is working to maintain drainage for the outfall pipes until the state is able to extend them. Maintenance on the outfall pipes was a modification to the contract with Great Lakes Dredge and Dock, which completed beach replenishment in Rehoboth last month. Michael Globetti, spokesman for Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, said the excavator is keeping the ends of the stormwater outfall pipes clear until extensions can be placed on the ends of the pipes. Rehoboth Mayor Sam Cooper said during the 2005 beach replenishment, the outfall pipes were buried. The corps is now trying to keep the pipes open so they do not backup, and will be extending the pipes. Rochette said it costs \$1,200 to maintain the outfall pipes, which is being shared by DNREC and the corps. He said the corps is still waiting on proposals for the extension work.

Three-foot long alligator found in Kent County State wildlife officials found a 3-foot long alligator in a Kent County retention pond March 1. A resident spotted the alligator in a retention pond near Redner's Warehouse Market in Cheswold, said Sgt. Gregory Rhodes of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's Fish and Wildlife Enforcement. Wildlife officials captured the alligator and sent it to a wildlife rehabilitator in New Castle County. The alligator will be transferred to an alligator rescue facility in Maryland, Rhodes said. The alligator was likely a pet that escaped or was released by its owner, Rhodes said. It is illegal to own alligators in Delaware because they are dangerous to people and native wildlife, he said.

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## WEST VIRGINIA

### **CHARLESTON GAZETTE**

Slack Street recycling center to close Friday CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- The county recycling center on Slack Street will close Friday, City Council members learned Monday evening, leaving Charleston, three other municipalities, and hundreds of homeowners with few options. Kanawha County Solid Waste Authority board members agreed Monday morning to close the aging recycling facility at 600 Slack St. after consultants told them it would cost \$1.5 million to make the processing building there meet minimum safety standards. "It's awful," said board member and Councilwoman Kasey Russell. "We thought there was going to be a fix. They are closing as of Friday. There's no public drop off after Thursday, but we're looking for options for the cities." Charleston, South Charleston, Dunbar and St. Albans all bring recycled items to the Slack Street center, which accepts a wide variety of goods -- paper, cardboard, plastics, glass and metals. All but Dunbar are required by state law to recycle at least four items. The center also takes used televisions, computers and other electronic devices collectively known as e-waste, although it has to pay to get rid of it, Russell said. For several years, board members have been hoping to build a modern recycling center but, so far, have been unable to find a suitable site. They recently hired a team of consultants -- local architects ZMM and Hatch Mott McDonald, a national engineering firm -- to check the processing facility at

Slack Street.

### **CHARLESTON DAILY MAIL**

Recycling center to close CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Citing safety issues at the facility, members of the Kanawha County Solid Waste Authority have voted to close the Slack Street recycling center. Thursday will be the last day members of the public can drop off items at the center, leaving the future of the county's recycling program in limbo. Councilwoman Kasey Russell announced the planned closure at Monday's Council meeting. Russell, an at-large Democrat, is also a member of the Solid Waste Authority, which owns the building. Engineers and architects informed board members that the building was unsafe for employees during an emergency meeting held Monday morning. Board members opted to close the facility as of Monday, but the public will still be permitted to drop off recyclables through Thursday, Russell said. "Our number one concern is our employees," Russell said. Residents can drop off items in outside bins. Officials have had serious concerns about the integrity of the approximately 100-year-old building for some time. Holes in the ceiling are large enough to let in snow. A few years ago, a portion of the roof caved in on an employee as he worked in a bay. He was not injured. The build up of combustible dust from glass and paper is another concern, Russell said. Officials are now left scrambling to find a solution. The facility handles recycling from Charleston, South Charleston, Dunbar and St. Albans. One option could be to collect the recyclables outside of the building at Slack Street and then haul them to another location, perhaps in Raleigh County for recycling, Russell said.

### **WBOY\_TV**

Friends of Decker's Creek Organization Helps Landowners Understand Rights BRUCETON MILLS - When it comes to Marcellus Shale drilling, there are a million and one concerns people have, especially if you live near a drilling site. "Our main concerns now relate to water quality," said Richard Dey of Morgantown. "So both water and air quality in the area and the affect those sorts of things can have on property values." The Friends of Decker's Creek organization invited guests to speak to residents on Sunday in Bruceton Mills, helping them better understand their everyday rights as landowners. "Because of God or providence, or Geology, we have been placed upon gigantic oil and gas fields that have tremendous economic potential, and there are frankly many companies, with lots of money looking to acquire those rights," said Jay Leon, a speaker at the symposium. In many cases in West Virginia, the land owners and mineral rights owners are not the same person. When companies are drilling or want to drill, it's important that landowners understand all of their rights, especially their right to clean water. "So one really important thing that land owners need to do, is to get their water tested or have the driller test the water before any drilling happens," said Julie Archer of the West Virginia Surface Owners Rights Organization. "Because if they don't and something happens while they're drilling, then the driller is just going to say that 'Hey your water was bad before, and we don't have to do anything about it.' "

### **BLUEFIELD DAILY TELEGRAPH**

Three injured in industrial fire at Mercer County plant (Tuesday) PRINCETON — Three people have been injured in an industrial fire at a Mercer County manufacturing plant. Emergency crews are on the scene of a fire at the Conn-Weld plant in Princeton. The plant has been evacuated. Two of three employees were transported to the hospital with severe burn injuries, according to Sgt. M.A. Smith of the West Virginia State Police Princeton Detachment. Smith said a machine at the plant caught on fire, and exploded during an attempt to put the fire out. Marvin Shields, vice president of engineering at Conn-Weld, released an official statement regarding the fire. "We have had a fire, and it is under containment," Shields said. "We have sent everyone home today. Three employees were taken to the hospital in an unknown condition. It is unknown at this time what employees will be asked to return to work." Nelson Short, chief of the East River Volunteer Fire Department, said the fire has been contained, and the state fire marshal's office will be called in to investigate.

### **ASSOCIATED PRESS (W. Va.)**

Storms damage 45 homes in 1 W.Va. county State officials say about 45 homes in Wayne County have been damaged by the storms and tornadoes that swept through southwestern West Virginia. Al Lisko of the Division of

Homeland Security and Emergency Management says the damage ranges from torn-off porch roofs to a few homes that were destroyed. Wayne County was the first seriously affected area that teams could reach. Lisko says emergency response crews were working their way through Lincoln County on Monday. Lisko expects to have a statewide damage assessment sometime Monday night. No deaths or serious injuries have been reported. The National Weather Service says two tornadoes touched down Friday night in Wayne and Mingo counties. Nine counties that sustained wind or flood damage are under a state of emergency declared by Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin.

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## MARYLAND

### ***BALTIMORE SUN***

Review finds *Fort Detrick* cancer studies inconclusive (Monday) An independent panel of scientists says two government-issued studies can't show if people were harmed by toxic pollution from Fort Detrick contaminating the ground water, but further studies are unlikely to answer lingering questions about the health impacts of the cancer-causing chemicals buried decades ago at the Frederick military base. In a review sponsored by the Army, a committee of environmental and health experts with the National Research Council took issue with a study by the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, which concluded that tainted ground water seeping out from Detrick's Area B was "unlikely to have produced any harmful health effects, including cancer."

### ***SALISBURY DAILY TIMES***

Our View: Watermen go ghost hunting With some 1,000 watermen vying for an opportunity to retrieve ghost pots, you might think a Halloween party or paranormal investigation was about to take place. But no, it's nothing nearly as much fun as that. The term "ghost pots" refers to crab pots that are lost when they become separated from the buoys that indicate their underwater locations. This happens when the line that connects buoy to pot is severed, either during a storm or other bad weather, or by a passing boat's propeller. Since the pots and associated debris are located underwater and out of sight, the extent of the problem is largely unseen. But just because they're out of sight doesn't mean there's not a problem. A few years ago, the Maryland Geological Survey and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Chesapeake Bay Office used sonar to survey the area and estimated that thousands of ghost pots lay at the bottom of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. In 2010 the state received a \$15 million federal grant in the wake of a blue crab disaster declaration in the bay. Part of it was set aside to help the watermen. This was to be accomplished by hiring them over a three-year period to retrieve ghost pots, which can create problems for crabs and other marine life by snagging them so they die and become bait that attracts other predators or scavengers, which in turn are caught and killed.

Colburn files bill for more Natural Resources Police OCEAN CITY -- In the next decade, the number of Natural Resources Police officers patrolling Maryland's waterways could nearly double, if state lawmakers pass a bill sponsored by Lower Shore state Sen. Richard Colburn. "Firsthand, I can tell you, there's not enough police officers out there in the Natural Resources Police to enforce the laws," Colburn, R-37-Dorchester, said. "So when times improve, we want to make sure that (NRP) staffing -- the officers working the Chesapeake Bay, working the Assawoman Bay, at Deep Creek -- those numbers increase." But the state's fiscal management arm opposes this, saying Colburn's desire to increase NRP manpower from 220 to 435 by fiscal year 2022 is an attempt to legislate personnel requirements by law, rather than in the annual budget bill. While the Department of Management and Budget calls the bill "commendable" in its intent, it officially said any law that would increase staffing in one area of government means taking money from other "equally worthy programs ... in an environment of scarce resources." Colburn insisted that the wording of Senate Bill 318 is deliberate and careful, and would only cost the Department of Natural Resources if money were actually available. He filed the same bill a year ago, and it passed the Senate unanimously but died in the House.



## **FREDERICK NEWS-POST**

Report faults Detrick health study Officials call for cleanup of former Area B dumping ground. There's no way to tell if groundwater contamination harmed people living in homes around Fort Detrick's Area B, and the seepage should have been considered "an indeterminate public-health hazard," the National Research Council said Monday. But, the NRC, in a 25-page report, said additional studies of groundwater at the 399-acre site located off Rosemont Avenue would be unlikely to establish a link between local residents' complaints of a cancer cluster and groundwater contamination found in the area because historical data doesn't exist. Area B, a former dumping ground for Detrick, has long been a site of contention and speculation among local residents. The Army found groundwater contaminated with PCE and TCE-chemicals often found in industrial materials such as dry cleaning fluids and degreasers seeping under the site in 1992. The contamination spread to several residential wells, forcing Detrick to connect those residents to other water supply lines or provide them with bottled water. Some area residents have blamed PCE and TCE -- known carcinogens -- for their cancers. The NRC's report reviewed two studies. One study was done in 2009 by the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and concluded that possible exposures were "unlikely" to have a detrimental health effect. The other study was completed by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Frederick County Health Department. That report determined that there were no unusual patterns in cancer incidences around the site from 1992 until 2008. "The data was so skimpy," said John C. Bailar III, chairman of the NRC committee that produced the report, regarding the agency for toxic substances. "The measurements they had were from 1992, and there's no telling what was in that water before that. Maybe there was nothing, maybe there was a whole lot ... Our conclusion was there wasn't any way to tell."

## **ANNAPOLIS CAPITAL**

Oyster farming links Va. company with Annapolis ANNAPOLIS -- When it comes to oysters, Severn Inn customers want them local and they want them salty. Chef Philip Sokolowski has tried to meet that need, most recently providing oysters that come from the Chesapeake Bay by way of Virginia. Through War Shore Oyster Co., the restaurant provides oyster platters made up of the company's salty Battle Creek oyster, and the Oyster Severn Inn, which is made with the milder Pungoteague Creek oyster. "It's been going really good, people love them," said Sokolowski, who began working with the company in December. "The two questions we always get are, what's most local and what's the saltiest? This fits both."

## **ASSOCIATED PRESS (Md.)**

09' groundwater pollution study at Ft. Detrick flawed HAGERSTOWN — A 2009 federal study that concluded groundwater contamination from Fort Detrick was unlikely to have harmful health effects was flawed, a national scientific panel said Monday, prompting the state's two U.S. senators to demand a faster cleanup of the Superfund site in Frederick. The National Research Council committee said the study by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services should have concluded the chemically tainted groundwater presented an indeterminate health hazard. The panel also urged Maryland's public health agency to further analyze data showing higher rates of lymphoma in neighborhoods near Fort Detrick than in the state as a whole. The committee said those findings, reported in October, were scientifically sound and further analysis could lead to a better understanding of the numbers. The Army sponsored the review of the two studies. Fort Detrick spokesman Rob Sperling called it "a good report." "We had this done, and this is why we wanted to have this done. We wanted to ultimately have the 'supreme court' of environmental and research academies look at this," Sperling said. "We care about the health and well-being of our employees, the people here, our tenants and the communities." He said the pollution investigation, which began in 1991, includes plans for a dye tracer study to track the most likely historical movement of contaminants off-post, as recommended by the scientific panel. The groundwater is contaminated with the cancer-causing solvent trichloroethylene and the suspected carcinogen tetrachloroethylene, apparently from barrels buried more than 40 years ago in a section called Area B.

Mikulski demands faster Fort Detrick groundwater cleanup HAGERSTOWN — U.S. Sen. Barbara Mikulski is demanding a faster cleanup of Fort Detrick groundwater after a national panel of scientists faulted a study that

concluded harmful health effects were unlikely. The Maryland Democrat said Monday that cleanup efforts at the Army post in Frederick "must be accelerated and must be aggressive." The National Research Council says the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services wrongly concluded in 2009 that past exposure to groundwater contaminated with chemicals from Fort Detrick was unlikely to have produced any harmful health effects. The council says the report should have said the groundwater presented an indeterminate health hazard. The council also supported further analysis of state public health data showing higher rates of lymphoma in neighborhoods near Fort Detrick than in the state as a whole.

Md. senator wants to move funds from embattled law clinic to offer legal support for farmers ANNAPOLIS, Md. — A Maryland legislator wants to transfer funding from an embattled University of Maryland environmental law clinic to create a similar program for farmers as retribution for the clinic's attempt to sue a chicken farm over water pollution. The budget amendment proposal from state Sen. Richard Colburn, R-Dorchester, is spurred by the clinic's representation of the Waterkeeper Alliance Inc., which is suing Hudson Farm, a Worcester County chicken farm that supplies Perdue. The plaintiff claims the family farm is polluting a nearby waterway. The move would transfer \$500,000 from the law clinic's lobby shop to establish an agricultural law clinic at the University of Baltimore law school. The entire Senate Budget and Taxation Committee would have to consider it. Sen. David Brinkley, R-Frederick, who supported Colburn's plan, said it was unclear how much backing the amendment would get from the entire General Assembly.

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## VIRGINIA

### ***RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH***

Letter: Proactive wastewater policy has helped the Bay The editorial "The Chesapeake: Bay Seasoning" correctly points out that the Bay's populations of oysters and crabs are on the rise. One of the reasons for this success is the progress that has been made in the wastewater-treatment sector. The members of Virginia Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies Inc. (VAMWA) are proud to be leaders in this effort. The association's membership, which consists of 61 local wastewater treatment agencies, years ago had the foresight to begin implementing advanced wastewater treatment for the Bay and will continue to pursue these technology upgrades into the future. The protection of our waterways comes with a great price tag. While much of Virginia's progress to date has been funded by increases in water and sewer rates, funding provided through the commonwealth's Water Quality Improvement Fund (\$650 million to date) is a key ingredient. Many of Virginia's wastewater treatment plants are among the most advanced in the nation and have been recognized for their outstanding performance. The Virginia wastewater sector has realized a 20 percent reduction in nitrogen and a 47 percent reduction in phosphorus discharges during the last decade. We expect data for 2011 to show even more progress. The Bay is "seasoning," but it hasn't happened overnight. As noted by your editorial, all of the progress made by Virginia's wastewater treatment agencies testifies to the virtues of persistent, collaborative action. Let's continue to work together as to make the fisheries trend a permanent one.

Snow closes schools, slickens roads Slick places could be lurking on Richmond-area roads this morning, courtesy of Monday's snow. Crews planned to spread salt and sand on icy spots overnight and this morning, but motorists still will need to drive carefully, highway officials said. For the most part, the Monday snow was a Richmond classic: It annoyed some people, delighted others, then mostly went away. No one reported major problems. "I think it was beautiful," said Tahoura Simpson of Richmond. "You could still get around in it. You didn't have to do a whole lot of shoveling and any of that stuff." About a half-inch to 2 inches fell across the area, mostly before noon. Much of it melted quickly as temperatures climbed into the low 40s in the afternoon.

### ***NEWPORT NEWS DAILY PRESS***

HRSD looking at taking over sewer systems owned by localities (Mar. 2) Hampton Roads Sanitation District officials are talking about a possible takeover of all sanitation services in Hampton Roads communities, in response to environmental requirements to clean up the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The required upgrades to the region's sewer systems will cost "billions," according to officials, and will result in at least a doubling of sanitation bills over the next few years. Currently, localities own and operate some sewer services, while the HRSD owns others. Ted Henifin, HRSD's general manager, said that's where an HRSD takeover of sewer pipes, services and treatment plants comes into play.

### ***LYNCHBURG NEWS AND ADVANCE***

City's storm water system under federal scrutiny as council discusses new fees A flesh-and-blood reminder of the looming new stormwater quality mandates swept into Lynchburg this week in the form of a team of federal inspectors. The city's stormwater program is being audited by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Local officials said the agency, which is implementing tougher stormwater quality standards, has been inspecting cities throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The inspectors have proven to be tough customers in other localities. "I don't know of any audits that have been completed where there haven't been civil penalties and administrative orders," Water Resources Director Tim Mitchell said at a City Council meeting last week. Fines levied elsewhere range from \$77,000 to \$165,000, he said. In one instance, a locality was fined for dropping a local stormwater inspector position due to budget cuts. Federal authorities said the community had not adequately funded its program. "I fully expect the EPA is going to come in and find problems with our stormwater program," Mitchell said. "... It's going to be a pretty intense inspection, I'm sure." The inspection team, in town Monday and today, arrived just as local officials are turning their attention back to the pending stormwater fee. Council already has approved the idea of the fee, but is clashing over how much to charge. Fee levels will be debated as part of the annual budget review. The maximum initial rate considered is \$4 a month per average household, although charges will increase over time as regulations grow more stringent. Charges also will vary according to the level of development on individual properties. Under a base rate of \$4, the stormwater program's first-year budget would be \$3.25 million, 80 percent of which would be paid for by fee revenue. The remaining 20 percent would come from existing state funding the city already applies to stormwater-related work.

N.C. firm seeks to spread biosolids on Bedford County land (Monday) A company based in North Carolina is seeking a permit allowing the spreading of treated sewage sludge on 2,254 acres of Bedford County agricultural land. Bio-Nomic Services, Inc. is proposing to utilize the sludge, also known as "biosolids," for fertilizer on a dozen owners' properties in Huddleston and southern areas of the county. The material proposed for land application onto owners' fields would be generated from the Western Virginia Water Authority facility in Roanoke. Spreading would occur in accordance with a nutrient management plan developed for each site with no discharges to state waters, according to the application on file with the Department of Environmental Quality. The company's request withdrew 55 acres that were previously included in the permit application. The oversight of regulating sludge changed from the state Department of Health to DEQ four years ago. State legislators also added a requirement that all fields receiving treated sludge follow nutrient management plans. James Scott of Roanoke's DEQ office, who is overseeing the draft permit, said he has received few comments so far about Bio-Nomic's proposal. DEQ will take comments from the public on the permit until 5 p.m. on April 2.

### ***FREDERICKSBURG FREELANCE STAR***

Area's recycling rates on the rise Area localities are making progress on recycling, according to a state report. The Rappahannock Regional Solid Waste Management Board, which serves Stafford County and Fredericksburg, recycled 104,948 tons of the 191,458 tons collected in 2010, the latest year for which figures are available. That's a recycling rate of 57 percent, second only to Falls Church, which recycled 60 percent of its waste....

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## **MISCELLANEOUS**

## **BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

EPA Budget Request Reinforces Need for 'Polluter Pays' Tax, Groups Say The Environment Protection Agency's proposed budget cut to the superfund program reinforces the need for a "polluter pays" tax, several environmental groups told Bloomberg BNA March 5. "Until we reinstate this tax, which expired in 1995, funding will be a continual problem," said Shelley Vinyard, clean water advocate for Environment America. In its fiscal year 2013 budget request, EPA asked for \$532 million for the superfund site remediation program, \$33 million less than what was appropriated for fiscal 2012. The agency also proposed renewal of the superfund tax on the petroleum and chemical industries. Because of the proposed reduced funding, the agency said it would not start any new cleanups at superfund sites in 2013 and could have an expected backlog of as many as 35 new construction projects (30 DEN A-4, 2/15/12).

Ed Hopkins, director of the Sierra Club's Environmental Quality Program, said, "This is exactly why we need the tax." In a time of declining budgets, "the program is going to suffer if it doesn't have a source of revenue other than appropriations," he said.

Hopkins said he believes this is the first year since the superfund program began that no new cleanups would be started. The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 created a trust for superfund cleanups that was funded mostly by taxes on the oil and chemical industries. After expiring in 1995, it has not been extended due to pressure from industry.

EPA Withdraws Rule on Feedstocks for Renewable Fuels After Objections Facing opposition from environmental groups, EPA withdraws a direct final rule that would have approved several new fuel feedstocks and processes under its renewable fuels program. Instead, EPA says it will proceed with approving new feedstocks and processes using a proposed rule published at the same time as the direct final rule. The direct final rule would have allowed fuel producers to generate Renewable Identification Numbers for fuels derived from camelina oil, energy cane, giant reed, and napiergrass. It also would have approved several new processes for producing cellulosic biofuel, biomass-based diesel, and advanced biofuels

EPA Final Rule on Oil, Gas Emissions Limits at White House for Review The White House opens review of an EPA final rule to revise air pollution limits for the oil and natural gas industry. As proposed in July 2011, the national emissions standards for hazardous air pollutants and new source performance standards for the oil and natural gas sector would reduce volatile organic compound emission by 25 percent, methane by 26 percent, and toxic air pollutants by 30 percent, according to EPA. Review by the Office of Management and Budget is the last step before a rule is published

Makers of New Chemicals Could Face More Scrutiny After EPA Action Manufacturers that want to make a new chemical similar to one of the 83 chemicals or groups that EPA recently designated as high priority for risk assessment may face additional scrutiny before the agency allows the new chemical to go into production, a consultant tells participants at the Global Chemical Regulations Conference

## **BLOOMBERG NEWS SERVICE**

Warmth sinks natural gas Natural gas futures tumbled to a one-month low in New York as forecasts of above-normal temperatures across the continental U.S. signaled reduced demand for the heating fuel. Gas, the worst performer this year in the Standard & Poor's GSCI commodity index, fell as much as 5 percent. Commodity Weather Group LLC in Bethesda, Md., said temperatures may exceed 70 degrees in the mid-Atlantic and southern Midwest in the next two weeks. Gas supplies were 45 percent above the five-year average in the week ended Feb. 24. "The winter is over, literally and figuratively," said Tom Saal, senior vice president of energy trading at INTL Hencorp Futures LLC in Miami. "The focus now will be on whether withdrawals from gas inventories will turn into injections." Natural gas for April delivery fell 10.6 cents, or 4.3 percent, to \$2.378 per million British thermal units on the New York Mercantile Exchange after dropping to \$2.361, the lowest price since Feb. 2. Gas is down 20 percent this year. Hedge funds reduced bullish bets on natural gas by the most in eight months as forecasts for warmer-than-usual weather in the eastern U.S. signaled a drop in heating-fuel use with supplies near a seasonal

record. Money managers cut wagers on rising prices for the first time in seven weeks, reducing positions by 56 percent in the seven days ended Feb. 28, according to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission's Commitments of Traders report. It was the biggest decline since June 28. Heating demand in the U.S. may be 23 percent below normal from March 11 through March 15, data from Weather Derivatives in Belton, Mo., show. Inventories of gas totaled 2.513 trillion cubic feet as of Feb. 24, according to the Energy Department. Storage levels may reach a record 3.983 trillion in October and 4 trillion a year later, the agency said in its monthly Short-Term Energy Outlook Feb. 7.

### ***ASSOCIATED PRESS***

Ohio GOP breaks with Republican presidential field on regulation of hydraulic fracturing COLUMBUS, Ohio — When it comes to the controversial gas drilling technique known as hydraulic fracturing, the Republican Party itself appears fractured — especially in the critical swing state of Ohio. Super Tuesday voters are choosing among a field of GOP contenders who all support less regulation of the drilling technique, even as some Republicans in the state call for greater oversight and new taxes on companies using it to harvest natural gas. Republican Gov. John Kasich plans to introduce a new energy policy next week that would place a new tax on hydraulic fracturing to reduce personal income taxes for the state's residents. Many Republicans in Congress and on the presidential campaign trail oppose any new taxes or the elimination of tax breaks for oil and gas companies. Kasich has also placed a moratorium on the deep injection of drilling wastes for disposal within five miles of a well site, a process that is being studied for possible links to an unusual series of earthquakes in Ohio. The process is separate from fracking — which is the pumping of water, chemicals and sand underground to open fissures in rock to allow oil and gas to flow to the surface — but it is expected to grow as fracking in neighboring states sends more waste into Ohio. In addition, the state's Republican attorney general, Mike DeWine, has called for steeper fines on the growing industry and for drillers to disclose the chemicals they're injecting, actions that would bring Ohio in line with the toughest regulations in the nation. "I would hope everyone wants to protect the environment. That's not the issue," DeWine said in an interview with The Associated Press. "We need to do it right, we need to do it with safeguards, but we need to do it."